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COMMENTS:

Re: App. No. 10/701,143

Pursuant to our email correspondence, attached please find Applicant's claim amendments.

Thank you for your assistance.

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22. (Currently Amended) A software management system for use in a vehicle, comprising:

a portable memory device adapted to store software files and diagnostic information;

multiple vehicle processors connected to a system bus of the vehicle and each adapted to generate diagnostic information indicating success of software installation on the respective vehicle processor, wherein the diagnostic information for each respective vehicle processor includes an indication of a software version installed on the respective vehicle processor;

a communications port of the vehicle;

an interface processor connected to the communications port and the system bus, wherein the interface processor is adapted to, when the portable memory device is connected to the communications port:

identify software files stored on the portable memory device for each of the multiple vehicle processors,

load the identified software files onto the multiple vehicle processors, and

transmit the diagnostic information received from the multiple vehicle processors to the portable memory device; and

an external processor having a communications port and adapted to receive the diagnostic information from the portable memory device and to analyze the diagnostic information to determine successful software installation on the vehicle.

27. (Currently Amended) A vehicle comprising:

a communications port;

multiple vehicle processors connected to a system bus of the vehicle and adapted to generate diagnostic information indicating success of software installation on the multiple vehicle processors, wherein the diagnostic information indicates installed software versions on the multiple vehicle processors; and

an interface processor connected to the communications port and the system bus, wherein the interface processor is adapted to, when a portable memory device is connected to the communications port:

identify software files stored on the portable memory device for each of the multiple vehicle processors,

load the identified software files onto the multiple vehicle processors, and

transmit the diagnostic information received from the multiple vehicle processors to the portable memory device, wherein the diagnostic information is acquired from the portable memory device and analyzed by an external processor.

32. (Currently Amended) A vehicle software installation method for use in vehicle assembly, comprising:

establishing communication between a portable memory device and an interface processor of a vehicle via a communications port of the vehicle, wherein the interface processor is connected to multiple vehicle processors of the vehicle via a system bus of the vehicle;

employing the interface processor to identify, for each of the multiple vehicle processors, software files on the portable memory device, and to load the software files received over the communications port onto the multiple vehicle processors;

installing the software files on the multiple vehicle processors;

transferring diagnostic information indicating success of software installation from the multiple vehicle processors to the portable memory device via the interface processor, wherein the diagnostic information indicates installed software versions on the multiple vehicle processors;

establishing communication between the portable memory device and an external processor via a communications port of the external processor; and

analyzing the diagnostic information via the external processor to determine success of software installation in the vehicle.